

I-10 freeway widening makes noticeable progress

by **David Madrid** - Jan. 3, 2009 08:00 AM
 The Arizona Republic

Southwest Valley commuters can't help but notice almost daily progress on the widening of Interstate 10.

Where once a dirt median separated the westbound and eastbound lanes, two ribbons of thick concrete run down the center for most of the project length.

The **Arizona Department of Transportation** predicts traffic will double on I-10 in the Southwest Valley by 2030.

The widening of I-10 from Loop 101 to Sarival Avenue to five lanes was accelerated partly because Avondale, Goodyear and **Litchfield Park** feared that the increasing congestion was becoming dangerous. And with growth near the freeway, the cities felt they needed extra lanes for economic-development purposes.

Construction began in February and the project should be done in the fall.

"We are on schedule," said Lars Jacoby, an **ADOT spokesman**. "We've hit a lot of milestones recently."

Once median lanes are paved, drivers will be shifted onto the new lanes, and work will begin on rebuilding the current lanes to the **ADOT** standard of a 13-inch concrete base with asphalt on top. All the freeway ramps on that stretch of freeway have to be rebuilt.

The freeway at 107th Avenue, where westbound drivers can already drive on new concrete, is the trickiest part of the construction, Jacoby said.

"It's the one bridge where we've been pretty much working on it from the get-go, and we're going to be working on it until the project is done," he said. "We had to build the center portion of the bridge, and now we're going to go through on Jan. 12 and demolish the north side, the westbound lanes. Then we'll rebuild that and later down the line, a few months from now, we'll do the same thing on the south side, the eastbound lanes."

During the work on those westbound lanes, 107th Avenue will be closed under the freeway for four to six weeks as the bridge is rebuilt, Jacoby said.

Work crews are adding a carpool lane and two regular lanes to the 8-mile bottleneck, for a total of five lanes in each direction. After the five lanes and ramps are built from the loop to Dysart, work will begin to add the fifth lane in each direction from Dysart to

Advertisement

GET A FREE GIFT CARD

TO USE FOR GAS OR GROCERIES!



Get the best available rate on your *Arizona Republic* subscription. Change to EasyPay's monthly payment program. Take control of your bills, save money and get a free \$10 Safeway gift card!

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

CALL 888-303-8949 OR VISIT EPG.AZCENTRAL.COM TO SIGN UP!



PROMO CODE: EPG

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

Sarival.

The freeway-widening project was designed so that when all the lanes were completed from the loop to Dysart, a separate design would cover adding the final lane from Dysart to Sarival, Jacoby said.

The first phase of I-10 construction is the initial 8-mile section. The \$102 million segment from Loop 101 to Sarival Avenue will be followed by three more construction phases that will widen I-10 as far west as Arizona 85 and east to Interstate 17.

At the end of January, ADOT will begin closing ramps to rebuild and connect them to the new freeway lanes. Those closures will begin at the Dysart Road ramp and end with Estrella Parkway ramps.

"The ramps at Dysart could be closed up to 60 days," Jacoby said. "Then all the other ramps going west will be closed up to 30 days. Obviously, we're hoping we don't have to use that entire time, but it's construction, so you never know."

The ramp work will be done so that when the Dysart Road off ramp is closed for construction, the Litchfield Road on ramp will also be closed and rebuilt at the same time, Jacoby said.

ADOT, Avondale, Goodyear and Tolleson are

working on the ramp closings, so more information and a schedule of closures will be released in the near future.

"We've been working with all those cities out there, and I think the work is where it needs to be right now," Jacoby said.

Advertisement

Find a dealer in your area
with our dealer locator.



Confidence Comes Standard.™

©2008 Classified Ventures, LLC. All rights reserved.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™